

# John Reich Journal

Volume 26 / Issue 1

April 2016



The purpose of the John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS) is to encourage the mady of manuscriptions, particularly United States gold and silver commitmed before the introduction of the Seated Liberty design, and to provide technical and administration of information concerning such coins.

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The John Reich Journal is the official publication of the Society and is distributed to all members are good standing. Members are encouraged to submit any articles encouraging the study of immismatics and, or relating to early United States gold and silver coms to the unifurer. Especially needed are articles containing new information about die marriages, and estates of published die marriages, articles and the states of published die marriages articles.

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Lorer 1966 in 1964 B. 7, second known specimen of this exceedingly rare die marriage discovered by NGC. The discovery counts in low grade and damaged obliterating many of the design elements. The non-discovery, will allow numismatists access to all the attribution points for this die marriage.

Phonocommiss NGC Photoproof

# John Reich Journal

Official publication of the John Reich Collectors Society

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## A Tale of Two Coin Hoards; or, Sotheby's, Pogue, and the Paper Lion By Keith Davignon

Two events took place recently that brought my attention back to a June, 1992 Sotheby's coin auction, which contained a remarkable mini-hoard of original mini state bust half dollars. The first event was the publishing of Dave Bowers book: "Lost and Found, Coin Hoards and Treasures, Illustrated Stories of the Greatest American Troves and Their Discoveries" (Whitman Publishing LLC, 2015).

On page 60 is a segment titled "Kept in the Family", and it describes the Tuesday, June 23rd, 1992 Sotheby's sale in New York City where a hoard of 38 (mostly) uncirculated but shalf dollars was described as follows:

#### The Property of a Gentleman

The following collection of Half Dollars was assembled in the years in which they were struck by an ancestor of the present consignor. Not only is a unusual to find a group of coins assembled over a century and a half ago, but the another and freshness of all of the coins is extraordinary.

Logs 106-141 included the following breakdown of dates and die marriages:

1820	19(1);	101
1821	(2);	103, 105a
1823	(8);	104, 2-106, 4-106a, 113
	(16);	101, 3-103, 3-105, 106a, 108, 2-108a, 5-112
1824	(2);	104, 108a
1921	1 (0):	3 101 6 1010

I first became aware of the Sotheby's hoard of 1992 at Sheridan Downey's table at the 1992 ANA Convention in Orlando. Upon viewing the coins in his case, a small group cyught my eye with their extraordinary flash and original skin; "what is the story of those coins?" I exclaimed, "coins that look like that have to have a story" after which he described to me how he came across this group of 38 coins in a Sotheby's auction in June, and how he was able to buy 18 of the lots, only 6 of which were still available by the ANA, two months later. He bought four more of the hoard coins from a dealer at the ANA, which he subsequently offered in his November 1992 fixed price list as "Something Special" (FPL; page 8). I was able to purchase one of the hoard coins at that time, an 1823-105 (lot 121 in the 1992 sale) which ended up in a PCGS 62 old green holder, and have been fascinated with this hoard ever since (obsessed is a more

accurate word), trying to track down coins from the "Sotheby's Hoard" in the aftermarket, and buy them when I can.

One of those "after-market" opportunities came in Sheridan Downey's August, 2013 Mail Bid Sale #37, where two lots consigned by Steve Nomura (lots 34 and 39), an 1822-106a and an 1823-112 (both PCGS 62), were offered for auction. In his description of lot 39, Downey tells the story of the 1992 Sotheby's hoard, but with some surprising new information about the consignor:

"It was only last year that I discovered the consignor to be George Plimpton!
Sports fans will recall his quaint efforts to pitch against major league baseball players (documented in his book, "Out Of My League"), spar with Archie Moore and Sugar Ray Robinson, play football with and against the Detroit Lions (another book, "Paper Lion"), defend goal for the Boston Bruins, golf on the PGA Tour and suffer a thrashing at the hands of tennis player Poncho Gonzales. Plimpton and Rafer Johnson, 1960 decathalon Olympic champion, tackled and subdued Sirhan Sirhan in June 1968, the night Robert Kennedy was assassinated. Kennedy and Plimpton were friends and classmates at Harvard. Plimpton was also known for his literary efforts as a journalist for "The Paris Review" and "Sports Illustrated". If you watched Ken Burns' 1994 PBS documentary "Baseball" vou heard Plimpton sharing his own experiences and relating other memorable events in baseball. Plimpton died in 2003, at age 76.

To my knowledge Plimpton was not a coin collector. He was simply the last in a long line of stewards for a marvelous cache of bust halves set aside by an ancestor. Most of Plimpton's coins feature subtle pastel colors, suggesting storage in a non-reactive environment. None appeared to have been dipped or cleaned. Though gorgeous, they were not pristine gems as, in due course, the coins visited the grading services and were assigned grades AU-58 through MS-64. In a hastily formed joint venture with my friend Gehring Prouty I attended the 1992 auction and came away with 18 lots. What a group! Gehring salted most of them away in his personal collection. I put out a special price list for the rest. They were quickly snapped up."

The second event that triggered my memory of the 1992 Sotheby's hoard was the recent Stacks Bowers/Sotheby's Pogue Sale, where lot 3052, an 1824/1 bust half graded PCGS 65 caught my eye. It had the same "look" of the 1992 Sotheby's hoard;

light silver patina, with swaths of pastel gold and blue toward the margins; remarkable freshness and originality. Could this coin be from the 1992 Sotheby's hoard? The catalog description starts:

"Evocative Hoard Discovery 1824/1 Half Dollar"

sounds good so far, but wait, the description goes on...

"EXCITING HOARD FIND! The following 38 pieces formed a hoard which has spent the last century and a half together in an estate in New England" Carl W.A. Carlson, 1981"

1981? Yes, the provenance of the Pogue 1824.1 goes from Bowers and Merena's sale of the James Bennett Pryor collection, January 1996, lot 59; David Akers, by sale to Pogue, July 2002, carlier from NASCA's sale of the Providence Collection, July 1981, lot 730!

I had the opportunity to ask John Kraljevich, who catalogued the Pogue coins, if he was eartain of the 1981 NASCA provenance, calling to his attention the uncanny similarity off the look of the coins, the description of the two hoards being nearly identical, each having the same number of coins (38). Could it be the same hoard, perhaps bought midet at the 1981 NASCA sale, and consigned again at the Sotheby auction in June. 1992? No. says John, the coins from the 1981 NASCA hoard sold mostly to different buyers and was widely dispersed.

John still had the July 1981 NASCA catalog, and was kind enough to share it with me. All 38 coins were photographed in the catalog, and although the resolution of the photos was not particularly great, and the coins were not attributed by die marriage, they were (mostly) attributable from the photos. Look again at the breakdown of the lots in the 1992 Sotheby's hoard as listed above, and then look at the following list of lots from the 1981 NASCA hoard:

#### Lots 693-730

1819(1);	111
1820/19(2);	2-101
1821(2);	102, 106
1822(8);	105, 2-106, 109, 3-113
1823(16)	; 3-103, 105, 3-106, 3-107a, 6-112
1824/1 (9):	3-101, 6-101a

There are differences between the two hoards, as the NASCA hoard has an 1819, and the Sotheby's hoard doesn't, but remarkably similar, including both hoards having an 1820 19, O-101, and both having the same amount of 1821's (2), 1822's (8), 1823's, (16), and 1824|1's (9). Even many runs of die marriages match between the two hoards, with multiple 1823 103's and 112's, and each with 9 1824-101's! Clearly these two hoards were from the same "mother hoard", which was split at some point in time into two mini-hoards, and sold 11 years apart. The most simple explanation would be that upon inheriting the 76 coin mother hoard, two relatives (siblings?), split the hoard as evenly as they could, one deciding to sell in 1981, and the other waiting until 1992. But as Downey reveals in his Mail Bid Sale #37 catalog, the consignor of the 1992 hoard was George Plimpton. Could George have inherited the entire group, and then split the hoard, selling some in 1981 and the rest in 1992?

Back to the Pogue Sale, where by coincidence, Downey is at the auction viewing, and comes across the cataloger of the 1992 Sotheby's Sale, David Tripp, who was a personal friend of Plimpton. At the FUN Show in January, 1 had told Sheridan about the uncanny similarity of the hoards in the 1981 NASCA sale, from which the 1824/1 Pogue coin came to light, and the 1992 Sotheby's hoard. Downey relays this information to Tripp, who upon hearing this, exclaimed: "Plimpton had a sister! Sarah Gay Plimpton was likely the consignor to the 1981 NASCA auction." Mystery solved! But wait; maybe not, as Plimpton also had two brothers, both of who were still alive when the larger hoard was presumably split by the two siblings in 1981 or, shortly prior to Sarah's share being sold by NASCA. If the larger hoard was inherited by Plimpton and his sister, why were the other two brothers excluded? Or are there two more shares of the hoard out there waiting to be brought to market? Plimpton's older brother, Francis Plimpton Jr. died in 2014, and his other brother Oakes, is still alive. Perhaps we have yet to see the last of the "Paper Lion Hoard"!

The following are confirmed after-market appearances of 1981 NASCA Hoard and 1992 Sotheby's Hoard coins: (\* indicates coins in collection of author)

### 1981 NASCA Hoard:

1824 1, O-101, PCGS 65 (NASCA lot #730) Stacks Bowers/Sotheby's
Pogue Sale, lot #3052
*1823-103, PCGS 62 (NASCA lot #712) Stacks Bowers 2012 ANA
Auction lot #9050

## 1992 Sotheby's Hoard:

1820/19-101, MS 62 (Sotheby's lot #106)
*1827-104, PCGS 62 (Sotheby's lot #109)
lot#938(ex Meyer Collection)
1822-106a, MS 62+ (Sotheby's lot #114)
ANA Prouty Sale, lot #372
1822-106a, PCGS 62 (Sotheby's lot #115)
ex Steve Nomura, Robby Brown
1822-113, MS 63 (Sotheby's lot #116)
1823-101, MS 61 (Sotheby's lot #117)
ANA Prouty Sale, lot #389
1823-105, MS 63 (Sotheby's lot #120)
ANA Prouty Sale, lot #398
#1823-105, PCGS 62 (Sotheby's lot #121)
private treaty sale,
August 1992
1823-106a, MS 62 (Sotheby's lot #123)S Downey Aug 2000
ANA Prouty Sale, lot #399
*1823-112, MS 62+ (Sotheby's lot #126)
ANA Prouty Sale, lot #416
1823-112, PCGS 62 (Sotheby's lot #130)
#37, lot #39
*1824 1-101 (Sotheby's lot #133)James Allen Collection,
sold by private treaty
1824/1-101 (Sotheby's lot #134)Meyer Collection,
sold by private treaty
1824/1-101 (Sotheby's lot #135)

	sold by private treaty
1824 1-101, NGC 64 (Sotheby's lot #137)	Heritage July 2011
	Orlando Summer FUN
	Signature Auction lot # 3605
1824/1-101, MS 62+ (Sotheby's lot #138)	
	ANA Prouty Sale, lot #422
1824-108, MS 64 (Sotheby's lot #141)	S Downey Aug 2000
	ANA Prouty Sale, lot #436

The following are appearances of coins very similar in "look" to 1981 NASCA Hoard and 1992 Sotheby's Hoard coins, but unconfirmed:

*1921 105* DCCC 42	Steele Ooteken 2002
*1821-105a, PCGS 62	
	Queller Sale, lot #189
1822-106a, NGC 63	Heritage December 2010
	Houston Auction, lot #3641
*1823-101, PCGS 62	Stacks Bowers 2014
	Chicago ANA Sale, lot #4062
1824/1-101, PCGS 64	Heritage June 2013
	Gardner Collection Sale,
	N.Y., lot # 30473
1824 1-101, NGC 63	Heritage October 2011
	Pittsburgh Auction, lot # 3687



1823 O103 Stacks/Bowers 2012 ANA sale lot 9050



1822 O104 1992 Sotheby's sale lot 109



## Is Your 1829 JR-5 a JR-5 or JR-6? By Jim Koenings

The book "Early United States Dimes 1796-1837" by Davis, Logan, Lovejoy, McCloskey and Subjack, states in their details considered to be most diagnostic for a quick identification for 1829 Variety 5, Reverse E is "A2 doubled to the right," and for 1829 Variety 6, Reverse F is "Lump over scroll below S1.". Although true for most cases, Mike Sherrill wrote an article for the October, 1992 JR Journal entitled "Some Notes on 1829 Dimes - JR-3, JR-5 and JR-6" where he discussed how not all JR-6's had lumps on the scroll. He considered this to be a die state problem.

In October, 2015, I found what I thought to be the finest 1829 JR-5 dime on the internet. This coin was graded NGC AU-58 and was very attractive. However, prior to receiving the coin, I decided to verify the attribution. A2 appeared to be doubled and there was no lump on the scroll, however, when I looked at the period after 10C it was very small. After further study I determined that it was an 1829 JR-6. So I then looked at what I thought was my 1829 JR-5 with a hole at 12 o'clock and discovered it was actually a LDS 1829 JR-6. That means that I now needed an 1829 JR-5 for my collection.

Knowing that Kirk Gorman's Collection was going to sell at the FUN Show in January, 2016. I then looked at his 1829 JR-5 and found it to be misattributed. It too was an 1829 JR-6 with no lump on the scroll. I reported my findings to Rory Rea and David W. Perkins and the coin was removed from the sale.

Next, I went to the Heritage Archives where I found 6 coins that were all certified as 1829 JR-5's. Guess what 3 of the coins were actually 1829 JR-6's.

In Mike Sherrill's article he had mentioned that he thought 1829 JR-5 was a lot rarer than the R-4 rarity rating. So now, I am getting worried that I won't be able to find another 1829 JR-5. My next move was to go to Rich Uhrich's website and see if he had any JR-5's. I found two lower grade coins and purchased them both.

Upon further research on the internet I found another NGC coin certified as F-12 1829 JR-5 from the "Stack's W 57th St Collection" that was also misattributed. This coin actually was an 1829 JR-6 that did not have the lump on the scroll and looks to have A2 doubled to the right. I purchased that coin. That makes 4 out of 7 certified coins as being misattributed plus Kirk's coin and my coin which would make 6 less 1829 JR-5's

Below are photos of 1829 JR-6's with and without lumps on the scroll and having A2 doubled to the right:



Figure 1. 1829 JR-6 With Lump and A2 Doubled to Right



Figure 2. 1829 JR-6 Without Lump and A2 Doubled to Right

You might also notice that the photo with the lump has a heavy die break connecting A1 to the rim. The photo without the lump has a very, very light break at A1.

I would like to thank the following JRCS members and dime collectors that provided me with information for this article including Bob Feldman, Edward Formica, Brad Karoleff, John Okerson, James Ross, Mark Verbeck, Van Walworth and Winston Zack. I can confirm that Charles Horning, David Johnson, Jim Matthews, Doug Reil, Gary Rosner, Louis Scuderi and Les Taken do have specimens of 1829 JR-5 dimes.

In conclusion, although Mike Sherrill mentioned in his article that 1829 JR-6's come with and without lumps, I can not find any previous mention of A2 (1st A in AMERICA) being doubled to the right as shown in above photos. To assure you have an 1829 JR-5, you should check all diagnostics and take note of the photos below:



Figure 3. Large Period on 1829 JR-5



Figure 4. Small Period on 1829 JR-6

Although a prime state specimen of 1829 JR-6 with no die break at A1, no lump and no doubling at A2 may exist, I have not seen one. I have seen a specimen with a light die break through A1, but without the lump and no doubling at A2. The doubling of A2 on some specimens of 1829 JR-6 may be hard to see as dark toning can hide this feature.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, you can either go to my website "holeduscoins.com" and enlarge the photos of my 1829 JR-5's or JR-6's or you can email me at bustcoin1@verizon.net .

#### **Editor's Comments**

Welcome to the first issue of volume 26 of the journal. There is another group of interesting articles from the membership for your enjoyment in the next 40 pages. We are highly grateful to the contributing authors for sharing their knowledge and insights with us in the journal. We are, however, always looking for submissions for future publication. Please take time to send us something to fill the next issues.

The Bust Quarter census will be featured in the Fall issue of the journal (Volume 26, Issue 3). Details on submitting your census to Glenn Peterson will be included in the next issue. Please consider sharing your information with the membership through our census reports.

Our yearly meeting will be held in Anaheim CA during the ANA's World's Fair of Money show Wednesday August 10th at 8:30 AM. Check the ANA's meeting schedule to determine the room number for our meeting. You can access it online at money.org. I would like everyone to pay particular attention to the short article by Len Augsburger on page 38 of this issue. He is requesting permission to include the JRJ in the Newman Numismatic Portal, an online resource for information published on our hobby. Many other clubs have already granted permission to include their information on the portal. I would strongly suggest that we follow their lead. There has been some limited discussion on the matter with both support and opposition. I am calling for a membership vote on the matter with discussion at the annual meeting. I want the membership as a whole to be able to voice their opinion via a vote on the matter. I will make a motion to include a yes/no vote to be sent to everyone along with the next ballot for the Jules Reiver Literary Award. Len has told me that they can exclude items from the scanning process, so if any author does not want their submission included on the portal we can accommodate the request. If the vote passes I will require a written request from anyone not wishing their material to be included. (Continued on page 14)

## 1829 JR-4, JR-5 and JR-6 Die States By Jim Koenings

In the December, 2015 JR Journal I requested members to send me photos of their 1829 JR-4, JR-5 and JR-6 dimes. There were two reasons why I wanted this information. First, I had discovered that collectors and certification services were misattributing some 1829 JR-6's as JR-5's and I wanted to see how widespread this situation was (see "1s Your 1829 JR-5 a JR-5 or JR-6?" in this JR Journal issue). Second, I also wanted to see what percent of 1829 JR-6 dimes came with or without a lump on the scroll. Since 1829 JR-4, JR-5 and JR-6 all use the same obverse die, I thought I should include 1829 JR-4's in my study.

Dr. Glenn Peterson had two nice photos of his 1829 JR-4 coin in the February, 2005 IR Journal article "Two Bust Dimes with Unlisted Die Breaks or CUDS" showing a retained cud at ER in AMERICA. The new dime book "Bust Dime Variety Identification Guide" by Zack. Scuderi and Sherrill shows a nice cud at ER on page 81. Below is a photo of Charlie Horning's 1829 JR-4 specimen showing a rim cud at ER and a retained cud above NITE.



Figure 1. 1829 JR-4 Late Die State, Horning Collection

Below are 4 photos of various Die States of 1829 JR-5 dimes:



Figure 2. 1829 JR-5 Showing Die Break at UNITED, Johnson Collection



Figure 3.
1829 JR-5 Showing Beginning of Rim Cud, Scuderi Collection



Figure 4.
1829 JR-5 Late Die State of Rim Cud, Matthews Collection



Figure 5. 1829 JR-5 Showing Later Die State of Rim Cud, Heritage Auction

Oilt of 8 photos provided by JRCS members or Capped Bust Dime collectors and 3 actual 1829 JR-5 specimens provided by Heritage, the above photos were all that 1 could find with die breaks. Since 1829 JR-5 is rated R-4 (76 to 200 known), I would think these later die states would be rated R-7 (4 to 12 known).

Next on the list are 1829 JR-6 die states. From what I have seen, the following are the most likely possibilities:

- 1. Prime, No break at A1, No Lump and No Doubling of A2
- 2. Die break from Rim through A1 to Scroll, No Lump and No Doubling of A2
- 3. Die break from Rim through A1 to Scroll, No Lump but Doubling of A2
- 4. Die break from Rim through A1 to Scroll with Lump and A2 Doubled
- 5. Heavy Die break from Rim through A1 to Scroll with Lump and A2 Doubled
- 6. Still looking for a later die state

The above was determined from the information provided by 9 JRCS members and 15 photos provided by Heritage Archives (actually 13 specimens from Heritage as 1 coin was sold 3 times). An interesting note, out of the 13 specimens labeled as 1829 JR-6, only one was misattributed. That specimen was actually an 1829 JR-5. Wonder who is the lucky person?

Out of 9 JRCS members who owned 1829 JR-6's and 13 more from Heritage there were 2 coins that I couldn't tell, 8 coins that had the Lump and 10 coins that didn't have the Lump.

Again, if you have any questions, you may email me at bustcoin 1@ verizon.net or you can reach me by phone at (951) 242-1858.

## **Editor's Comments Continued**

You still have time to nominate collectors for our Hall of Fame voting. There are two categories, veteran and modern. Veteran is for collectors who were active before the advent of JRCS and modern members are those who have been active members of our organization. Please send your nominations to Richard Meaney (email on inside front cover). Inductees will be announced at the annual meeting.

I hope you enjoy the material presented here and are able to participate in your hobby. The officers also look forward to seeing you at a show in the near future. Please feel free to introduce yourself to any of us, we always enjoy meeting members and talking numismatics.

## Collecting a Circulated Capped Bust Type Set By David Sunshine

There are many ways to begin collecting Bust coinage for a new collector. In my opinion, one of the most rewarding ways to collect coins is by completing a type set. Applying the concept to Bust coinage is very easy.

For most collectors a Bust type set contains only eight coins. The set comprises of one Bust half dime, two Bust dimes, two Bust quarters, one Bust half, and two Reeded edge halves. However, even though the number of coins required for the set is small, the challenge is great if you want to find coins that are original, problem free and with great eye appeal and color.

#### Bust Half Dimes 1829-1837

Bust half dimes are relatively common as type, but are actually very difficult to find with nice eye appeal in XF-AU grades. As with almost all Bust coinage, expect to pay a substantial premium if you want to purchase a colorfully toned Bust half dime 1 would advise a collector to buy a nice AU-55 to AU58 example. All dates except 1836 and 1837 are common.

#### Rust Dimes - 1809-1837

Busi dimes are comprised of two types – the large dentils from 1809-1828 and the small dentils from 1828-1837. The large dentils variety is significantly harder to find how the relatively common small dentils variety. I would recommend dates of 1821 Large date, and 1827 as they somewhat easier to find. The collector on a budget, should consider a VF-30 to VF-35 example. Even in VF grades, it will be hard to find a nice, problem free coin. For more advanced collectors, I would recommend a coin in AU-53 to XU-58.

Small size bust dimes are easier to find then their large diameter counterparts. I would from the first size of 1830–1835. A budget collector would find that an ideal grade would be XF-40-45. The advanced collector would want an AU55 to AU-58.

#### Bust Quarters 1815-1838

Bust Quarters are the most challenging and expensive denomination to find for a Bust type set. Large diameter quarters, minted from 1815 to 1828 are much, much tougher than the small diameter quarters. A budget collector should focus on a coin graded Finc to VF. You have to be very patient, as finding one with original skin and eye appeal

will take a long time and will be pricey. An advanced collector should target a grade of VF-30 to XF-45, My favorite date for a type coin is the 1825/4/2 because of the triple over-date. 1818 quarters are also popular because of the double 18's.

Small size bust quarters are more common than their large size counterparts, but are still challenging. It is easy to find a decent VF graded coin, but it gets tough when you target the XF-AU grades. I would recommend that you be patient and be ready to pay up and buy the right coin when the opportunity presents itself.

#### Bust Half Dollars 1808-1836

Bust Half dollars are the most collected area of Bust coinage and are widely popular. Even though they are plentiful on the bourse floor, finding a nice, mid-grade type coin is surprisingly difficult. I would recommend a Bust half dated in the 1820's as it is an unmodified design before the obverse design changes in the 1830's. I would advise collectors on a budget to search for a XF- to low AU coin that is problem free with original surfaces. I would advise advanced collectors to target a colorful AU-58, as they are very pretty and highly desired.

### Reeded Edge Half Dollars 1836-1839

Reeded Edge half dollars are also very popular, though not as popular as their earlier cousins. I consider RE halves to be broken up into two sub-types, based on the reverse lettering. From 1836-1837 the denomination on the reverse reads "50 CENTS", and from 1838-1839 it reads "HALF DOL."

Most collectors will want a nice mid-grade XF40 to AU-50 for each subtype. An advanced collector will want a AU-58 for each subtype.

Completing a Bust type set is very rewarding, and is within almost every collectors budget. Just be patient, and most of all have fun! You will be hooked on Bust coins in no time!



## The Draped and Capped Bust Dime Census Summary By Jim Matthews

The information presented in the Draped and Capped Bust dime surveys will be presented in a similar format to that of the prior Census of 2013. This format was chosen in order to present the most possible collections given the limitations of space in the Journal. If you submitted a survey but your coins are not in the columns presented, do not worry, they are in the total count at the far right. There were simply too many collections (32) submitted to individually list them all!

As to the format a few housekeeping notes will be added here. On "+" (plus) grades those had to be rounded down for two reasons, first off the "+" confuses the Excel spreadsheet program and it changes that grade from a numeric entry into a "text" entry, and thus it would not be included in the tally at the bottom for average grade and total number of coins. Also, the width of the columns simply didn't allow for this feature, even in a numeric format. Inevitably not every collector submitted their grades in a uniform format, so where possible I tried to stick to the basic grade numbers. A few collectors use the grade Fine-18, and in this case I rounded these down to Fine-15 to keep the grades as uniform as possible.

With the limitations of the Excel columns for width (and also for the "text" issue mentioned above), the particular grading service—if any, was not included in the grades presented. This may be done in the future, but it will require an additional column before the grade to allow for proper addition for the averages. Thus a PCGS-XF45 coin would be listed as IP[45] for example. Again, this would limit the number of collections presented and printed in the Census and I believe that most collectors would rather see the widest cross section of coins noted, rather than a limited number of coins of a specific die variety certified by this or that grading service, or raw.

Several collectors submitted information on the various die cuds in their collections and this will be presented in a future article, again the scope of the Census needed to be a simplified version of only dates, grades and varieties for this round. The more specialized die state study had to be separated out for the moment in order to get this Dime Census published.

When reviewing the data it must be noted that Life Member #32 has accomplished an incredible high grade marriage collection. I never suspected that virtually all of the known die pairings would survive in Mint State, let alone in Choice or Gem condition! This collection exceeds what I ever believed would be possible to accomplish. On another note relatively new collector Member #1432 has done something similarly spectacular, completing the entire Capped Bust dime variety set in less than a handful

of years! While #1432 had a bit of beginners luck purchasing a group of Capped Bust dimes and finding the second known 1827 JR-14 in that group, it is still quite an accomplishment to acquire all of the remaining die pairings in such a short span of time. Congratulations to both of these collectors.

It is amazing to me to see the evolution of the rarity ratings from the original Dime book published in 1984 to today. With the outstanding work on the "Bust Dime Variety Attribution Guide" by Zack, Scuderi, and Sherrill (and updated rarity ratings from that source that were used in this Census), expect more discoveries to be forthcoming. It is incredible that in the known 123 Capped Bust dime die marriages only 7 die marriages are still Rarity-5 or higher. This is a testament to the number of variety collectors and their tenacity to find coins for their collections. The rarest die marriage by far remains the recently discovered 1827 JR-14 with only two known examples. Hopefully a few more of these will be found so more collectors can complete their marriage collections!

Pricing of better marriages continues to draw attention. When coins from the fantastic Kirk Gorman Collection were recently offered at the FUN Convention by member W. David Perkins in January, the rarest and highest condition coins saw considerable collector interest, bringing strong prices across the board. Even supposedly common die pairings in high grade brought strong prices, especially when they were gloriously toned with various natural shades. The balance of this collection will be offered at the ANA sale and details, as well as photographs of the coins, are available online at www. davidnerkinsrarecoins.com.



Figure 1. 1820 JR-8 Gorman Collection



Figure 2. 1827 JR-5 Gorman Collection

Draped Bust Dime Census - Table 1

Year	JR#	Rarity	LM32	622	1068	1452	1386	048	1490	1424	869	M 3	893	1497	611	RPD	AVG	MAX
1796	1	3	64								6					2	35	64
1796	2	4-	64						40				45			3	50	64
1796	3	5	63	30		8	12									4	28	63
1796	4	4	66	8	6					58						4	35	66
1796	5	5	62	40												2	51	62
1796	6	3	64		4									35		3	34	64
1796	7	8	2													1	2	2
1797	1	4	66	4	3	8			20	15						6	19	66
1797	2	4	64	20		6	30	4								5	25	64
1798	1	3			10	8										2	9	10
1798	2	5+	58	3	6			3								4	18	58
1798	3	5+	65	35	2				25							4	32	65
798	4	3	64	40	12	20	20	8				4				7	24	64
1800	1	4+		30	35				40				53			4	40	53
T800	2	4+	65	12	10	30	10									5	25	65
TEOT	1	4	65	30	15	30			40		25	3				7	30	65
1801		4+	61	10	8	10	10	3		58	4					8	21	61
		8	45	4												2	25	45
1802		5	45	30	3		8					1				5	17	45
1802	3	6	61	20	6											3	29	61
1802	4	4	62	30	2	8		4	4			8				7	17	62
1803	1	6+	45	4	1											3	17	45
1803	2	6-	53	30	2							2				4	22	53
1803	3	4	64	20	3	3	20	3	30	55						8	25	64
1803	4	5	58	20	1	25										4	26	58
1803	5	7+	35	6												2	21	35
1804	1	5	55	20				3								3	26	55
1804	2	5	63	12			8			45						4	32	63
1805	1	4	64	20	6	10	3	2		15	25					8	18	64
1805	2	1	66	30	25	8	20	8	55		25			40		9	31	66
1807	1	1	66	10	25	20	30	3	20	63	25				58	10	32	66
		Marnages 29		26	21	14	11	10	9	7	6	5	2	2	1	31 Known Die Marriage:		
	Avg.	Grade	58	20	9	14	16	4	30	44	18	4	49	38	58	DIE	Marri	iges

## Capped Bust Dime Census - Table 2

	Year	JR#	Rarity	1423	LM32	622	1050	LM56	1300	096	578	1068	323	238	048	978	LM13	1212	869	411	1006	1057	1452	RPD	AVG	MAX
1	809	1	3+	6	65	30	45	45	20	40	25	6	10	8	3	10		10	20	53	50	25	40	22	29	65
1	811	1	3	45	65	30	30	45	12	30	53	8	20	12	35	12	25	20	15	40	58		58	24	35	65
1	814	1	3	12	65	30	45	30	40	58	35	25	45	40	8	15	55	25	15	30		6	50	20	35	65
	814	2	3	4	66	45	40	40	30	55	20	12	10	40	6	25	45	15	15	40	12	15	40	21	30	66
	814	3	2	12	66	30	45	55	10	58	45	25	40	8	2	10	45	20	20	45	50	8	30	25	34	66
	814	4	2	15	67	40	25	50	20	40	55	30	25	12	12	10	35	40	20	45	40	12	63	24	36	67
1.	814	5	4		65	50	30	30	6	50	53	30	30	10	3	8	58	12	6	8	40	3	30	21	28	65
1		1	3	25	66	35	20	55	20	55	30	40	20	6	6	25	40	30	45	20	40	15	30	23	30	66
	820	2	3	15	64	60	50	50	20	55	45	20	45	8	6	10	45	20	20	58	25	15	53	23	35	64
		3	4	6	64	58	40	30	20	45	50	40	6	30	3	15	40	15	10	12	20	12	30	22	28	64
	820	4	4+	6	65	50	30	30	3	30	20	30	40	12	10	20	15		4	10	10	12		20	22	65
	820	5	4	30	65	45	30	55	30	30	20	20	12	8	4	25	45	45	12	20	20	12	25	23	28	65
		6	3	12	64	58	35	35	10	55	58	45	4	12	2	15	45	35	12	25	25	8	62	21	30	64
		7	2	15	64	50	50	35	8	62	35	55	35	8	3	12	35	30	20	20	20	12	8	24	30	64
		8	3	10	64	55	30	50	8	58	55	25	53	20	3	12	40	30	20	58	35	20	40	22	37	64
		9	4	8	62	53	25	30	12	30	55	12	8	12	4	20	35	0.5	8	20	20	15	25	21	26	62
			3	10	40	45	55	25	4	50	62	25	20	10	2	10	40	25	20	45	20	8	50	23	29	62
			3	12	66	50	40	35	20	58	53	30	50	12	20	12	15	25	10	30	30	12	55	22	33	66
			5+	6	60	12	20	45	10	50	20		12	6	30	6	53 25		10	8				18	24	60
	820 821		3	15	64	50 35	45 45	30	3 10	50 50	20 53	35 45	12	30 10	4 20		40	25 25	15	12	15	10	58 6	25	25	64
			5	4	64 20	30		20	20	4	6		45	6	6	6	30	10	12	15	40	12	40	19	14	40
			4	8	60	30	8 25	25	6	25	25	15 25	12	8	20	8	45	20	12	20			20	23	21	60
		4	2	6	64	50	20	45	12	50	58	40	30	25	6	12	45	30	20	55	45	15	30	23	34	65
		5	3	35	66	60	35	35	4	55	50	25	45	20	12	15	53	45	20	58	20		45	23	37	66
		6	2	12	62	20	30	15	8	58	58	30	20	8	4			45		30	30	15	3	25	26	64
		7	2	12	64	20	45	15	20	62	50	25	30	30	2	8	45	15			45	15	40	22	30	64
	821	8	2	35	67	50	30	30	20	58	55	45	20	12	20	45		30	12	40	25	10	40	24	36	67
	821	9	2	15	66	50	25	10	20	50	62	50	15	20	8	12	45	20	15	55	45	12	55	22	34	66
			4-	15	64	40	30	25	10	61	40	25	4	12	12	15	20	35			12	6	45	22	26	64
	822		3+	3	64	20	12	50	20	6	20	3	4	8	3				8	12	12		8	19	18	64
	823	1	3	12	65	50	45	40		50	58	25	8	15	2	20	35	20	45	58	30	6	53	24	34	65
1		2	4	6	64	45	40	55	10	58	30	35	8	8	6	12		30	6	45		12	15	23	27	64
1	823	3	2	58	66	20	30	40	4	53	40	45	20	8	6	30	45	12	12	64	40	12	50	26	34	66
	824	1	1	20	66	40	30	50	8	50	58	35	8	4	40		3	30		58	40		61	25	33	66
	824	2	5+	12	35	8	30	10	8	25	15	3	8	4	6		25		3	20				16	14	
	825	1	4	10	65	55	58	25	4	58	58	30	10	8	15		55			50	12		62	21	34	65
1	825	2	2	30	64	35	30	55	8	25	55	35	10	30	15		35	40	12	40	30	12	53	25	32	64
1	825	3	4+	6	62	50	30	30	8	40	50	30	15	15	35	12	45	20	30	45	12		8	22	31	63
	825	4	3-	30	63	40	40	35	12	55	50	45	10	8	8	40	35	45	3	20	30	12	45	26	33	63
	825	5	4	4	66	35	53	58	8	64	50	10	30	4	12		58	12	3	20	12	8	3	22	27	66
	827		3	40	66	30	30	50	40	53	50	30	12	55	12	8	45	45	40	30			61	23	35	66
	827	2	4+	3	35	30	53	45	8	12	20	4	15	4	4	8	40	12	8	4	4		8	21	16	53
	827	3	1	12	65	20	20	25	45	55	58	10	60	12	12	35		25	30	45	30	12	50	21	33	65
	827	4	2	8	66	45	35	12	35	64	53	35	30	12		15	53	25	15	50	12	12	45	22	31	66
	827	5	_ 3	8	66	45	40	58	4	53	40	20	10	8	8	8	45	12	25		20	10		21	28	66

#### Capped Bust Dime Census - Table 2 (continued)

1827 6 2 12 65 20 40 50 20 45 63 20 40 12 12 30 45 30 20 35 81 12 55 23 1827 73 3 8 63 55 50 40 30 62 45 65 20 40 12 12 30 45 30 20 35 81 12 55 23 1827 73 3 8 63 55 50 40 30 62 45 64 30 10 4 35 45 30 20 35 15 12 8 22 22 1847 8 4 12 58 40 50 50 53 30 40 30 62 45 65 30 30 12 4 12 55 35 64 65 15 12 8 22 12 1847 8 4 12 58 40 50 50 53 30 40 15 40 30 12 4 12 55 35 64 65 15 12 8 22 12 1847 10 64 3 67 30 4 6 6 30 11 12 12 12 64 40 57 30 6 55 60 20 15 6 6 12 20 30 12 4 12 12 12 12 14 12 15 40 15 12 12 12 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14 14	
1877   3   8   63   55   50   40   30   62   55   40   30   10   4   35   45   30   6   8   88   27   22   22   24   24   24   24   24	2
1977   8   4   12   64   58   40   30   20   40   63   20   30   12   4   12   55   35   6   45   15   12   8   24   24   25   35   6   45   15   12   8   8   24   24   25   35   6   45   15   12   8   8   8   24   24   25   35   6   45   15   24   25   35   6   45   15   24   25   35   6   45   15   24   25   35   6   45   15   24   25   35   6   45   15   24   25   35   6   45   15   24   25   35   6   30   30   30   30   30   8   8   24   25   25   25   25   25   25   25	4 6
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## The Draped and Capped Bust Dime Census Summary

## Capped Bust Dime Census - Table 2 (continued)

Year	30	Ranty	1423	LM32	622	1050	LM56	1300	096	578	1068	323	238	048	978	LM13	1212	869	411	1006	1057	1452	RPD	AVG	MAX
183	3 3	3 5+	10	63	45	6	10	10	35	53	6	15	15	3		62	55		20			3	17	27	63
183	3 4	2	6	66		48	12	30	55	63	45	50	12	8	8	55	55	20	35	53	15	53	23	33	66
183	3 5	1	4	68	45		20	10	58	61	25	50	15	6	12	45	40	20	40	55	10	55	24	37	68
183	3 (			65		40	12	40	58	63	15	10	10	20		55		8	63		45	45	23	35	65
		4+			40	6	25	30	63	61	3	15	20	8	25	62			6	8	6	50	22	25	63
183		3 4		64		40	55	40	35	58	25	12	45	58	6					35	12	45	22	36	64
	3 9	2		67	45		20	65		53	45			15				40	40		12	45	24	38	67
		0 3		65	40	40	30			55	53			8	20		25	40	45		12	45	23	32	65
183	4			67	45	40	45	40		58	45	40		6	20			45			12	50		40	67
83	4			65		50		12	62	63	45	40	30		20	45	30	20		45			24	34	65
183	4 3	3 4	8	58	40	40		8		40	12		8		20	45			8	40	8			28	58
183	4 4	4 3	8	66		53	58	20		62	8				12		40		62	25			24		66
183	14			65	45	40	20	6		63			12	25		63			40	58			25	38	65
183	14			65	63	30	40	12		62		45	12		20			60		40			26	36	65
183	14	7 2	6	67	58		40	10	63	55	45	20	45	6	8		20		45						67
183				65		40	12	12	61	58		30	12			58	58		12		12				6.5
			12				40	8	63		45	30					61	40	58	40		40		41	66
18:		3 2	45					8	58	55	40		8	4	12	62							25	40	65
		4 2		65				6	45			20			12			62	45			58			65
			8	65					58		40	20		4				40						34	65
		6 3+		64			45	20					8	4				20		62				34	64
		7 3+		60	45		45	40	58	45	45				40			40					23		
		B 3	8	65			12		45		25	8	8			40				58			22		
		9 2	35				12	10	55	62		45	8			45	40	40		58				39	65
			15						58	62			8					25	62	45		45	24		65
		2 2	13				45	12		58		58				40		40			8			38	66
		3 3					40		58	62	45		12						40			62	24	40	65
		4-	10						62	62	45	4	12			45				62			24	34	64
		3	5.5					20	58		20			4	40				45				23	34	64
		3 2	113				20			40		8			40		30						24		66
183		4 1	13	_		_	25	12	58	63	20	12	12	20	20	45	20	20	35	45	15	45	24	34	66
		larriage						122		121								16						3 Kno	
	AV	g. Grad	e 16	63	44			18			29					46						42	Die	Marna	anes

## NGC Discovers Extremely Rare Dime - 1796 JR-7 Marriage is the Finer of Just Two Known By Janell Armstrong

A routine submission of early bust silver coins which included a well worn 1796 dime for attribution under NGC's VarietyPlus<sup>TM</sup> Service has furnished numismatics with its second known example of a previously unique die marriage. The coin's owner was unaware of its significance until alerted by NGC.

Early dimes from 1796 through 1837 are collected by JR numbers. The initials JR are a tribute to U. S. Mint Engraver John Reich who created the Capped Bust Liberty design, and they also reflect the fact that the standard reference on early dimes was published by the John Reich Collectors Society, a club dedicated to the study of all early United States silver and gold coins.

The JR-7 combines a reverse die used for two other die marriages of 1796 dimes with an obverse die that is unique to the JR-7 marriage that was first identified in 2002. Thus, it was not included within the JR book, which was published in 1984. The only example known until now is the plate coin in the recently published book Bust Dime Variety Identification Guide by Winston Zack, Louis Scuderi and Michael Shcrrill. That specimen is extremely worn and damaged, and numismatists had been unsuccessful in locating a second specimen until now.

NGC Research Director David W. Lange was not expecting any coins of such importance when examining a seven-piece submission of early United States silver coins that included various denominations. All had been flagged for variety attribution under NGC's VarietyPlus Service,™ and the other coins were all of common or just slightly scarce marriages. The lone dime in this group was a well worn but rather attractive 1796 specimen whose reverse die was very quickly identified by Lange as the familiar Reverse D used for varieties JR-4 and JR-5. The obverse, however, did not match either of these die marriages, and this left only two possibilities: The coin was a new example of the unique JR-7 marriage or it was a previously undiscovered marriage. As the only known example of JR-7 has its obverse nearly obliterated by both wear and scratches, this left just the date position as a comparison point. The new coin proved to have the same positional relationship between its numerals and the bust as the JR-7 plate coin, and its submitter was notified by NGC that he was the owner of a real prize.

This newly discovered dime rarity was certified by NGC's graders as Very Good-8. Both sides are evenly worn and have attractive, original surfaces of medium gray with a touch of golden toning. This makes it far and way the finer of just two examples known for the rare JR-7 die marriage.

The submission was made by Ron Drzewucki, Sr. of R & D Enterprises in Florissant, Missouri. Contacted by telephone with the good news, Ron was delighted to learn that his coin was so significant, telling NGC that it was part of an old collection that has been off the market for upwards of 60 years. This explains why the current generation of dime specialists had not yet identified this second specimen.

NGC may be contacted by writing to P.O. Box 4776, Sarasota, FL 34230 or by calling toll-free at 800-642-2646.



Newly Discovered 1796 JR-7 NGC Certified VG-8

## Over Fifty Years Later By W. David Perkins, NLG

Frank M. Stirling of Baton Rouge. L.A collected the early U.S. Silver Dollars by die marriage. He also collected Seated Dollars, Patterns, Currency and other coins. Best I can tell, Stirling started collecting the early dollars around 1950, when Bolender's book *The United States Early U.S. Silver Dollars from 1794 to 1803* was published.

Like many of us today, but for the most part by a different media (an old fashioned letter!), Stirling corresponded with other collectors. As a researcher, I treasure the old correspondence that I've acquired over the years from the original collectors and their families. I have copies of the Stirling correspondence, courtesy of one of Frank Stirling's daughters and a grandson.

In this case, this letter reveals some interesting information on early dollars that is for the most part not known but makes you wonder, "Where are they today?"

On May 20, 1957, John J. Pittman of Rochester, NY wrote a letter to Frank Stirling:

Dear Mr. Stirling:

Thank you for your letter of May 8, 1957 letting me know that you had seen the report of the Rochester. Numismatic Association on page 572 of the May Numismatist. (Incidentally, your letter arrived three days before I received my copy of that issue.)

Yes, the brilliant proof 1803 dollar is one of the restrike pieces. It was Lot #2078 in the so-called "Menjou" sale held by Numismatic Galleries in June 1950. (Actually, this was the Williams collection.) I also have knowledge of one other collector who has the restrike silver dollars of 1801, 1802, 1803. He purchased them in a New York sale about 12 years ago. I purchased the 1803 restrike silver dollar to display at meetings and conventions so as to point out to collectors that it and the 1804 dollar are all restrikes made at a later date. They are all extremely rare, but none were made in the year that they were dates, and undoubtedly no 1804's were made in that year.

I do not collect early silver dollar varieties. I have at the present time 1795-1803 in uncirculated condition, but have never actually checked them for varieties, although I do have Bolender's book. Quite a number of my pieces were purchased in England many years ago. I do not have

any duplicates and therefore do not have any I care to dispose of either in trade or sale.

I have had several opportunities to buy the 1884 and 1885 proof trade dollars, but since these were definitely not regular legitimate issues, I did not care to add them to my collection

It was nice hearing from you and should I happen to run into any choice early dollars in which you might be interested, I will certainly let you know.

Very truly yours.

John J. Pittman, LM 152

Imagine buying an 1803 Proof Dollar today simply "to display at meetings and conventions!" This would cost \$750,000 to over \$1M (in today's market). And a complete date set of early dollars 1795-1803 in uncirculated condition, a set today that would be extremely difficult to complete, would also be expensive! This date set in a nice uncirculated condition would likely cost well over \$1M today

I do not recall ever seeing an 1803 proof Novodel dollar pedigreed to Pittman, nor any of the dollars from this "date set" pedigreed to him either. These coins must have all or for the most part been sold privately. David Akers offered the Pittman early dollars in *The John Jay Pittman Collection Part II* sale May 20-21, 1988. However, there were only four early dollars offered in the Pittman sale. They were: 1795 Draped Bust Dollar in Choice AU; 1798 B-26, BB-114 Draped Bust. Heraldic Eagle called Almost Uncirculated (graded PCGS MS61 today); 1800 in Fine (scratched); and 1800 AMERICAI in Choice Uncirculated, ex. 1945 World's Greatest Collection sale, bought by Pittman from the and 1949 ANA Sale.

Interestingly, David Akers noted in an italicized footnote to Lot 1669 in the Pittman sale Part II, the 1800 B-19, BB-192 AMERICAL Dollar.

JJP did not really collect early Bust Dollars to any great extent because they were always relatively expensive compared to other things that he was able to buy which were more rare but cost less. However, he did manage to come up with a real prize when he purchased this coin out of the 1949 ANA sale. JJP certainly had a knack for doing that.

Yet now we know Pittman purchased some of these expensive early dollars, and in uncirculated condition along with one very expensive proof coin!



Figure 1.

Copy of letter dated May 20, 1957 from John J. Pittman to Frank M. Stirling. Note the two hand written notes at the bottom of the page, one offering for sale an original copy of the 1881 Haseltine Type Table Sale catalog and another "asking for Stirling's vote" for the ANA Board of Governors.

## The Adolphe Menion Catalogue UNITED STATES COINS From the cabinet of the distinguished Star of stage, screen and radio and other properties. The most comprehensive listing of United States Comage ever offered at Public Auction and featuring . . . 1802 HALF DIME 1873-CC DIME CC DIME 1894-5 DIME 1876-CC TWENTY-CENT PIECE 1823 QUARTER 1827 QUARTERS—Both Types 1796 HALF DOLLARS 1838-O HALF DOLLAR 1894 TRADE DOLLAR 1895 TRADE DOLLAR 1870-S SILVER DOLLAR 1841 QUARTER EAGLE 1863 QUARTER EAGLE 18645 QUARTER EAGLE 1875 THE FOOLLAR PIECE 1815 HALF EAGLE 1819 HALF EAGLE 1821 to 1834 EAGLE 1879 QUINTUPLE STELLA 1882 to 1888 PROOF DOUBLE EAGLES 1907 PROOF ST. GAUDENS \$20 PIECE 1924-S DOUBLE EAGLE 1926-D DOUBLE EAGLE Plus complete sets of Gold Dollors, \$3 pieces, Smoll Cents, PUBLIC SALE PUBLIC SALE PUBLIC SALE PUBLIC SALE JUNE 15, 1950 — 8:00 P.M. LOTS JUNE 16, 1950 — 8:00 P.M. LOTS JUNE 17, 1950 — 11:00 A.M. LOTS JUNE 17, 1950 — 7:00 P.M. LOTS LOTS 569 to 1158 LOTS 1159 to 1787 LOTS 1788 to 2233 Lots 2234 to 2746 to Mail Bidders on June 20, 1950 ROY J. GOLDENBERG AUCTION GALLERY NUMISMATIC GALLERY

Figure 2.

BEVERLY HILLS, CALIF.

8943 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD

The inside cover title page for the 1950 Numismatic Gallery *The Adolphe Menjou Catalogue* sale. Lot 2078, the 1803 proof dollar that Pittman bought realized \$280.00 on an estimate of \$250.00. As you can see from these highlights, this sale offered a lot of great coins.



This scan shows two of only four early dollar lots offered in The John Jay Pittman Collection Sale. This 1798 B-26 Dollar called Almost Uncirculated in the sale now is graded PCGS MS61 and currently resides in the author's collection of the die marriages for the Dollars of 1798. Your author was unsuccessful in his bidding in the Pittman sale, but managed to acquire it years later. This coin is the finest known (to me) for the die marriage.

## Dismissing the Castaing Machine Myth By Bradley S. Karoleff, NLG

As one struggles through the rigors of numismatic research traversing mountains and valleys of information sometimes one finds himself treading in the footprints of numismatic giants that have preceded them. But the fact that we are treading there proves their prior research has not yet been integrated into the mainstream of numismatics, making a review of their research necessary.

The literature available to numismatic researchers has told us that the Castaing Machine was used to impart not only the lettered edges but also the reeded edges onto the coins from the first United States Mint during the time that the screw press was used to strike coins. This purported myth has been repeated in numismatic literature for decades, misleading modern readers to infer incorrect conclusions. I hope to present evidence to correct this assumption and lend a "new" way to perceive our early coins.

My background researching numismatic history is based in the study of the Capped Bust Half dollars produced by the Philadelphia Mint from 1807-1836. They were struck from planchets that were passed through the Castaing Machine prior to striking which imparted the edge lettering to the planchet as it upset the rim. We know this was the order in which the process happened due to the existence of error coins, confirming the order of production.

The first error coin illustrated is an unlettered edge half dollar struck on a "type one" planchet. The Castaing Machine not only imparted the edge lettering onto the edge of the planchet but it also upset the rims of the planchet to prepare it for striking. The upset rims contained the force of the strike to produce a more fully struck coin as well as raising the rims to protect the central devices from wear. The coin illustrated here has a greater diameter than a normal bust half dollar and the edges of the coin "fall away" from the fields.



Figure 1.

1812 unlettered edge half dollar struck from a "type one" planchet without edge lettering or upset rinks. The diameter is larger than normal and the edges, "fall away" from the center of the coin. Examples of unlettered edges are very rare.



Figure 2.

Edge photo shows no lettering and the tell-tale "bellyline" found on all unlettered edge halves. The silver, when cut frim the strip, is cut about 3/4 of the way through and then it breaks leaving the line around the circumference.

The next illustration is of an off center strike bust half dollar exhibiting full edge lettering. If the edges were imparted during the strike, one would see either partial or no edge lettering on an error of this type. Compare it to a modern off center coin, where the edge reeding was imparted during the strike.



Figure 3. 1813 off-center strike



Figure 4.

The edge on the off-center strike is lettered normally proving it was present BEFORE striking. The strike was imparted to the planchet while OUTSIDE the collars to the lettering COULD NOT be added during striking from the collar.

The next illustration is of a bust half that did not receive a full pass through the Castaing Machine. There is missing edge lettering 180 degrees from one another with a corresponding area of un-upset planchet. This phenomenon was nicknamed a "Guido" by my friend and fellow researcher, Keith Bellman many years ago.



Figure 5.

1834 half struck from a planchet that did not fully pass through the Castaing Machine. Notice the flat areas 180° apart in the dentis. There is also no edge lettering in the bulged areas.

A little explanation of how the Castaing Machine works would be helpful. Noted numismatic researcher Henry Hilgard (recently deceased) wrote a magnificent article for the **John Reich Journal** (Volume 21, Issue 2, July 2011), which I am using with the permission of the author.

On the way to becoming a coin, a bust half dollar blank was first passed through a device that applied edge lettering, commonly known as a Castaing machine, named for the Frenchman Jean Castaing who made significant improvements in the machine around 1680. In the Castaing machine the half dollar blanks were rolled and squeezed between two parallel bar dies, one fixed in position and the other moving. Each die contributing half the inscription, either "FIFTY CENTS OR" or "HALF A DOLLAR". The lettering was in relief on these dies, so that the lettering ended up incuse on the coins' rims, thus transforming the blanks into planchets ready for striking. Our knowledge of how these edge lettering machines worked is reasonably good because a couple of them still exist and have been illustrated. In addition some of us were fortunate to have seen and used a working model of a Castaing Machine that Russell Logan built and brought with him to several coins shows before his untimely death in 2002.

Following, is a schematic drawing of the workings of the Castaing Machine provided by Henry Hilgard. This is how a normal lettered edge was applied to the half dollar blank. Starting in this position, the blank would receive a full pass through the machine imparting the edge with "Fifty Cents or Half a Dollar". The rim would be fully upset without any irregularities around the full circumference.

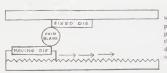


Figure 6. Schematic drawing of the starting position of a blank when it is about to pass between the fixed and moving dies in the Castaing machine. Here the moving die is completely retracted into its normal starting position and the blank will receive a complete set of edge letters.

The next schematic drawing illustrates the starting position of the blank when the Castaing Machine is not returned to the correct beginning position. This will result in an incomplete pass through the edge lettering dies that creates a "Guido". The rim of this planchet will not be fully upset and the resulting "soft" spots will be visible as



Figure 7. Schematic drawing of the starting position of a blank when the moving die is NOT completely retracted into its usual starting position. The blank will be missing the letters from the ends of the dies on the right in the figure at the starting point.

In the next two illustrations, one sees a doubled edge lettered half dollar that, obviously,



Figure 8. 1814 half dollar displaying doubled edge lettering from two passes through the Castaing machine.



1834 half dollar displaying a flip over doubled edge. After passing through the Castaing machine the planchet was fliped over and passed through the machine a second time. These errors are quite scarce.

Another abnormality that can be readily found on some years of the lettered edge half dollars are the edge letters riding up onto the rim producing what looks like rim dings on the finished coin. Here the planchet "rode up" the Castaing machine dies so that the edge lettering was not centered on the rim of the planchet. The tops of the letters exceeded the plane of the edge resulting in the "edge chips" illustrated here. Many collectors and dealers have mistaken these marks as rim dings in the past.



Figure 10.

Rim "nicks" from edge lettering that ran over the edge of the planchet when it "walked up" between the dies during the pass through the Castaing machine.

These are illustrations of the edge errors that are found on the Capped Bust lettered edge half dollars. Some, like the plain edges and the fully doubled edges are rare and others like the "Guidos" and partially edge lettered examples are relatively common. This will serve as a basis for proving that the Castaing machine was NOT used to impart the edge reeding on the minor coins of our early Mint.

The half dollars were the most abundant of our early silver coinages. It is not uncommon to find the edge errors I have described on these half dollars. What I have NEVER seen is one of these errors represented on a reeded edge coin of this time period.

There were millions of coins minted for the combined series of half-dimes, dimes, quarters and gold coins of this era. Why are there no examples of these Castaing machine errors extant? It is generally accepted that by 1829, the Mint began striking coins from a "closed" collar that imparted the reeded edge at the time of the striking.

This is proven by examining the edges of off-center strikes that show partial, or no, edge reeding. Russ Logan, in his article "The Collar Dies of our First Mint" (John Reich Journal, Volume 13, Issue 3, July 2001) presented the collecting community with the "proof" of edge collars for our early mint products. It seems that not many collectors or researchers were paying attention! They were too stuck in the "history" of research attributing the reeded edges to the Castaing machine. After all, who would want to contradict the writings of Don Taxay in "Dies and Colinage" and Walter Breen in his "Encyclopedia" as well as other corroborating publications?

Quoting from Russ' John Reich Journal article,

"There have not been any Bust half dimes, dimes, quarters, or Federal gold coinage documented that share the Bust-half-dollar-like idiosyncrasies of the Castaing machine. Instead, all edge variations for both the open collar and closed collar dies are closely linked with the integrity of the obverse-reverse strike, and there is ample evidence to prove that their reeded edges were applied by the collar die during the striking of the coin. This is best confirmed by studying the off centered and multiple struck coms, but can also be verified by some normally struck coins."

Ross owned one of the finest collections of bust error coins ever assembled. He dustrated his article with numerous error coins to prove that the Castaing machine dud not impart the edge reeding onto the early coins. The first was an off-center strike spaarter dated 1818. There was no edge reeding visible on the coin. He followed with in 1814 dime struck off-center which also had no edge reeding. Remember, the half dollars struck off-center all had normal edge lettering. Next he illustrated a double struck 1827 JR4 dime that exhibited doubled edge reeding indicating that it received a set of reeding with each strike.

Russ continued with an illustration of an 1821 JR10 dime with "Siamese" edge reeds that appear opposite the arrowheads on all the coins of this marriage. This same edge collar was also used to strike 1823 JR1. JR3 and 1824 JR1.

Russ concluded, "Early Capped Bust coins that were struck off center show no evidence of receding, others that were double struck show evidence of double reeding, and some early Capped Bust dimes show a flawed collar defect in the same spot (accent added by author), proving that early Federal half dimes, dimes, quarters, quarter eagles, half eagle and eagles were not reeded in a Castaing machine, but struck by a collar die in the Serew press. In 1828-9, William Kneass redesigned the collar die to produce a uniform thickness....but the manufacturing process remained unchanged: the collar die continued to form the reeds during the striking of the coin."

In that same issue of the JR Journal (Volume 13, Issue 3, July 2001), Mike Sherrill published an article on the 1827 JR10 die marriage bust dime. At the time, this was the rarest of the dime die marriages. He stated that "This die variety exhibits several noteworthy features, some of which suggest the variety was the first struck with a closed collar for the dime denomination. Conclusive proof of this theory has not yet been established..."

Mike went on to note the following seven arguments supporting his theory:

- 1. The date for production is approximately correct.
- The purpose of this die marriage may have been to create specimen strikings of the new closed collar design.
- Enhancements were made to the reverse die between its first and second use.
- The adjustment marks on the planchet are extremely significant (making sure an argument for an overweight planchet could not be used to explain the strike).
- The obverse rim is unusually wide and raised. The dentils are beaded and edge reeds are quite uniform.
- There is no doubled edge reed as documented in the Coinages of the Americas Conference in 1986.
- 7. The reverse die crack is the first of its kind in the series (crescent shaped).

I believe the most compelling reasons to argue this marriage was struck in a closed collar are numbers 5 and 6. The obverse rim more resembles those of the latter pieces we know were struck in a closed collar with the raised rim and beaded dentils. The fact that the reeds are uniform and lack the doubled reed, clearly tells us a different collar was used in the striking. The crescent shaped die crack so familiar to collectors of the bust half dollars is an interesting observation. We did not see much of this type of die failure in the earlier dimes, but it becomes very prevalent in the later dates. The closed collar striking clearly altered the pressures exerted on the dies during the minting process.

Current research by noted dime specialist and cataloguer for Stacks/Bowers, Jim Matthews, agrees the first use of the closed collar was for striking the 1827 JR10. In his description of the finest known example in the ANA 2013 sale he notes; "Research by noted authority John Dannreuther combined with study of the coins in question by this cataloger (JMM), casts a new light on this rare issue."

John Dannreuther documented the arrival of a new coining press at the Philadelphia Mint in November 1827. The Rush Muhlenberg press utilized a different method

of ejecting the finished coins from the minting chamber than the old screw presses currently in use at the Mint. William Kneass began experimenting with the new press to determine the best way to utilize this new piece of machinery. The old "eigar" shaped dentils on the obverse die used to strike the 1827 JR9 were effaced in the reworking of the die and were replaced with the new style dentils.

The reverse die was also used to previously strike dimes in 1827 (JR7). This is the first time in the history of the US Mint that two previously used dies were reannealla altered and then used to strike coins. The reannealing and subsequent rehardening of the dies made them fragile which explains the new crescent die crack developing on the reverse. The previous examples of dies being reused in this manner also resulted in their breaking during use. I recommend reading the complete description in the Stacks Bowers Chicago ANA Rarities Night sale August, 2013 for lot 4064.

Another dime enthusiast, Kirk Gorman, has done an exhaustive study of the edges of the Capped Bust dimes. He has die linked most of the dimes to one another through the series pre-1828, thus proving that an edge collar was used to impart the reeded edge, not the Castaing machine.

I have been actively searching for a reeded edge coin exhibiting a Castaing machine error for many years. Russ had searched for one long before me without any success. I have talked with many researchers who have yet to recall seeing one. The "proof" from the coins all confirms the edge collar die theory. So the pertinent question is why do so many numismatists still hang onto the theory that the Castaing machine was used to impart the edge reeding on our early coins?

My only theory for that error is that they have never personally questioned the "established", antiquated research by the likes of Breen and Taxay, nor have they ever seen the current research published by Logan. I have spent the last few years asking some of the "old guard" about this subject and presenting the case for the edge collars. I have been met with mixed response from them. My challenge is this: If anyone still believes that the Castaing machine was used to impart the edge reeding on our early coins, please prove it by producing a coin exhibiting one of the edge errors commonly found on a Capped Bust half dollar. Where are the partially reeded edge coins that are not quite round produced from an incomplete pass through the Castaing machine? This would be a dramatic edge error for a reeded edge coin and something not likely missed by numismatists for the last century and a half.

We have many unanswered questions from the early United States Mint. Much of the documentation either has been destroyed or has not yet been uncovered for our inspection. We are left to examine the coins themselves for answers. In this case, the coins are speaking very loudly to us. Is everyone listening?

## Newman Numismatic Portal By Leonard Augsburger

Today's digital technologies offer unprecedented opportunities for the numismatist. Collectors form virtual communities in electronic forums, while online bidding has emptied the auction rooms but only increased the pace of consignments and sales. Companies like Heritage Auctions have been able to easily expand into other collectibles areas simply on the strength of a robust Internet platform for auction and inventory management. Research appears ever more quickly, aided by Internet search tools and the humble word processor. Even variety attribution has given way from the 16x glass to high resolution digital images that can be easily examined for the smallest details. While there will never be a compelling replacement for face-to-face interaction - human beings are simply wired this way - our hobby is surely following a path that will be more and more defined within the digital realm.

The Newman Numismatic Portal (NNP) was launched in November 2014 to help bring clarity to the digital numismatic space. While Google books and other content aggregators have adopted the approach of systematically scanning large libraries, numismatics is a more focused area that demands knowledge of its particular bibliographic traditions. Further, many materials, for example early American plated auction sales, simply are not widely represented in even the largest academic libraries. Our important institutional libraries at the ANA and ANS fulfill vital roles in the hobby but are always reliant on incremental funding for dedicated scanning projects. NNP has stepped into the gap, and, as of January 2016 has scanned over 2,000 numismatic documents representing more than 100,000 pages. These are all made available to the public on a free and forever basis through the Newman collection on Internet Archive (archive.org/details/newmannumismatic). [This URL will likely change prior to publication.]

Through the generosity of our content partners, NNP is able to present a wide array of numismatic information in just a few clicks. Dan Hamelberg, a prominent literature collector, has loaned for scanning plated catalogs from Chapman and Elder, invaluable resources for pedigree work. His collection of unique bid books from the Chapman brothers, representing over half of their combined auction sales, is available on NNP. The Newman Portal has installed dedicated equipment at the ANS and sponsors, through Internet Archive, a fulltime scanning position. While this material is immediately available on Internet Archive, it also creates the possibility for the ANS to ultimately link their online library catalog to the actual scanned documents. NNP is pleased to see its efforts leveraged in this way, as it furthers its mission of universal numismatic knowledge.

Many numismatic clubs and societies have asked how to become involved with NNP, and a virtual alphabet soup of groups have now allowed NNP to present back issues of their journals on Newman Portal. Among these are LSCC, C4, NBS, CSNS, MCA, PAN, and WIN, with others in progress. By providing a critical mass of information in one location, NNP creates traffic that allows these organizations to be more easily discovered. NNP credits contributors and contributing organizations, and "click-throughs" from the NNP site to a contributing club will represent a user who has been exposed to an organization and is motivated to learn more about it. All of this happens at no cost to the contributing organizations.

The Newman Portal likewise extends an invitation to JRCS to participate in the Portal as a content partner. Further discussion will be led by President Brad Karoleff at the JRCS annual meeting at the Anaheim ANA convention in August. You are invited to bring your ideas and engage in an important conversation on the future of numismatics in the Internet Age.

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